

**Department of  
Veterans Affairs**

# Memorandum

Date: July 8, 2004

From: Chief Consultant for Care Coordination (11CC)  
Chief Consultant for Prosthetics (113)

Subj: Purchase of Home-Telehealth Devices

To: VISN Directors, VISN CFO's, VISN MVP Leads, VISN Prosthetic Reps,

THRU: Chief Officer, Patient Care Services (11)  
Deputy Under Secretary, Health for Operations and Management (10N)

1. This memorandum replaces the instructions contained in the previous memorandum titled Purchase of Home-Telehealth Devices that was issued on April 21, 2004
2. On June 30, 2004 the National Acquisition Center signed the first national contract award under Solicitation RFP-797-NC-04-0001 for home-telehealth messaging and measurement devices, telemonitoring technologies, and videophones. The first award was for Group 1 messaging and measurement devices. Awards for Group 2 telemonitoring technologies and videophones remain under consideration. Therefore, from June 30, 2004, VISN home-telehealth technologies that involve in home messaging/measurement will need to be purchased under this contract. Unless the following waiver conditions apply on a case-by-case basis:

**Clinical conditions for waiver:** e.g special needs such as visual impairment

**Technical conditions for waiver** e.g. telecommunications barriers to access necessitating wireless connectivity

**Associated requirements for waiver:** home-telehealth technologies purchased under this waiver must adhere to VHA cyber security requirements and meet the HL-7 components of the technical specifications that were outlined in RFP-797-NC-04-0001

**Waiver authorization:** authorization for waivers needs to be signed by the appropriate facility Chief of Staff on a case-by-case basis

**Notice of intended change to contract:** It had been the intent of the Office of Care Coordination to make 4 awards for Group 1 messaging and measurement devices. However, due to Federal Acquisition Regulation, it was only possible to make one award. It is the intention of the Office of Care Coordination to issue another solicitation for home-telehealth messaging and measurement devices within the next 6 months

3. For Group 2 telemonitoring technologies and videophones, VISNs will need to continue to establish local contracts for home-telehealth equipment and must:
  - a. Require vendors to have placed any data servers within the VHA firewall
  - b. Purchase no more than a 30-day inventory
  - c. Include a 30-day escape clause in all contracts
  - d. Use the *VHA PROSTHETIC CLINICAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (PCMP) CLINICAL PRACTICE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE ORDERING OF CARE COORDINATION AND TELEHEALTH DEVICES FOR VETERAN PATIENTS* to order all home-telemonitoring equipment.
4. Once the national awards for Group 2 telemonitoring technologies and videophones are made all further purchases of these types of equipment must be made from the national contract, as is currently the case for messaging and monitoring devices.

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